

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 017260
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY OES/APT/SA:REDDINGTON:CMC
APPROVED BY OES:PTMINK
D - DLAMB
EUR/SOV - SMCCALL
NSC - PHUBERMAN
S/S - TGMARTIN

-----103102 212118Z /62

O 212049Z JAN 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 017260

NODIS
WHITEHOUSE FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: TSPA, NATO

SUBJECT: RE-ENTRY OF SOVIET SATELLITE, COSMOS 954

REF: COPENHAGEN 0455

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN ANSWER TO
QUESTIONS, PAR 2 OF REFTEL. THE INFORMATION IS BASED
UPON BEST ESTIMATES AND NOT UPON VERIFIABLE DATA UNLESS
OTHERWISE NOTED.

A. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT INDICATES THE FUEL FOR THE
POWER SUPPLY IS U-235

B. ESTIMATED POWER OUTPUT IS 30 TO 50 KW THERMAL

C. ESTIMATED TOTAL WEIGHT OF THE POWER SOURCE IS 300-
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400 POUNDS. ESTIMATED WEIGHT OF GRAPHITE FRAGMENTS THAT
MIGHT SURVIVE REENTRY ABOUT 40 POUNDS EACH FOR UP TO
FOUR FRAGMENTS WITH SMALLER FRAGMENTS OF THE ORDER OF
A FEW POUNDS EACH.

D. THE U.S. CANNOT MONITOR WHETHER OR NOT THE SATELLITE
IS BURNED UP ON REENTRY

E. THE CURRENT BEST ESTIMATE OF THE TIME OF REENTRY IS

0001 TO 0900 GMT ON 24 JANUARY 1978. THE PROBABLE AREA OF IMPACT WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THAT EVENT COULD OCCUR.

F. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE SOVIET UNION INDICATES

THAT THE POWER SOURCE IS "EXPLOSIVE PROOF BECAUSE THE ACCOMMODATION OF A CRITICAL MASS IS RULED OUT." THE USG HAS NO REASON REPEAT NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A NUCLEAR WEAPON IS ONBOARD THE SATELLITE. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SATELLITES, COSMOS 954, NUCLEAR HAZARDS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: X3
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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